



# Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

## Summer Calendar of Events



June, July, August  
2014



Hiking in Alaska's wilderness is for the experienced hiker!

Say the word “hike” to ten different people and you will get ten different answers. Many people think of hikes as long, multi-day treks through the wilderness, foraging for food during the journey, and using a map and compass to find your way. To others, the word means a simple stroll through a city park, following a paved path around a pond or playground. Here at the Refuge, our hikes fall within the two extremes. The shortest hike that can be taken is the Hillside Trail. It starts from the Bloomington Education and Visitor Center and is a half mile in length. It starts on top of the bluff, heads down into the valley, and then has a steep climb to get back to the beginning.

The Mazomani Trail is found in the Louisville Swamp Unit and is five miles in length. It makes a big loop and winds through prairie, wetlands, and forest habitat.

It is nearly impossible to get lost on the Refuge's trails. They are wide, well-used, and directional signs are posted. Maps are available at each trailhead and are available online. The Refuge is a good place to get started in hiking because the trails are easy, safe, and fairly short in length.

If you have been interested in starting to hike but weren't sure how to begin please join in on our “Day Hiking” program. You will head out on one of the Refuge's easiest trails and will learn about the supplies you would need for a day hike. You will also learn how to identify some of the plants and animals around the trails, which only adds enjoyment to your hike!

For more information about this program, please see pages 4 and 7.



Hiking trails in the Refuge are easy to follow and are marked with directional signs.

# June



## **1 Beat the Heat Summer Films**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
3:00 pm-4:00 pm

## **6 Binoculars 101**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
9:00 am-10:30 am

## **6 Right Bill for the Job**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
3:00 pm-5:00 pm

## **7 Summer Birding**

Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center  
8:30 am-11:30 am

## **7 Spring Photo Hike**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
8:30 am-10:30 am

## **7 Birds on Film**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
9:00 am-5:00 pm

## **7 Bird Watching for Beginners**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
10:30 am-11:30 am

## **8 Nesting Birds of the Refuge**

Old Cedar Avenue  
8:00 am-10:00 am

## **8 Birds on Film**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
9:00 am-5:00 pm

## **8 Humans for Lunch**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
11:00 am-11:30 am

## **9 Summer Birding**

Old Cedar Avenue  
6:00 pm-8:30 pm

## **15 Beat the Heat Summer Films**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
3:00 pm-4:00 pm

## **16 Bird Watching Trek**

Rapids Lake Education & Visitor Center  
8:00 am-11:00 am

## **21 Family Nature Walk**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
10:30 am-11:30 am

## **22 Defined by Nature**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
11:00 am-11:30 am



# June *continued*

## **22** Beat the Heat Summer Films

Bloomington Education and Visitor Center  
3:00 pm-4:00 pm

## **23** Hike with a Trail Ranger

Chaska Unit  
9:00 am-11:00 am

## **23** Paddle with Ranger Judy

Thompson Ferry Landing boat launch  
4:30 pm-8:15 pm

## **28** Family Nature Walk

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
10:30 am-11:30 am

## **28** Family Birding

Old Cedar Avenue  
8:00 am-9:30 am

## **29** Nesting Birds of the Refuge

Old Cedar Avenue  
8:00 am-10:00 am

## **30** Bird Watching Trek

Louisville Swamp  
8:00 am-11:00 am

## *Summer Hours*

*Bloomington Education and Visitor Center*

*Starting April 1st*

*Tuesday-Sunday, 9 am-5 pm*

*Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center*

*Tuesday-Friday, 9 am-4 pm*

## *Connect with the Refuge online*

[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota\\_valley](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley)

<http://www.facebook.com/MNValleyNWR>

<http://twitter.com/usfwsminvalley#>

## *By phone*

*Bloomington Education and Visitor Center*

*952-854-5900*

*Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center*

*952-361-4500*



## **5 Family Nature Walk**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
10:30 am-11:30 am

## **6 Beat the Heat Summer Films**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
3:00 pm- 4:00 pm

## **7 Bird Watching Trek**

Old Cedar Avenue  
7:00 am-10:00 am

## **7 Paddle with Ranger Judy**

Carver Riverside Park boat launch  
4:30 pm-8:15 pm

## **10 Summer Birding**

Old Cedar Avenue  
6:00 pm-8:30 pm

## **12 Summer Birding**

Louisville Swamp Unit  
8:30 am-11:30 am

## **12 Family Nature Walk**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
10:30 am-11:30 am

## **13 Beat the Heat Summer Films**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
3:00 pm-4:00 pm

## **18 Hike with a Ranger**

Louisville Swamp  
9:00 am-1:00 pm

## **19 Day Hiking**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
7:30 am-10:00 am

## **19 Family Nature Walk**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
10:30 am-11:30 am

## **20 Beat the Heat Summer Films**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
3:00 pm-4:00 pm

## **21 Bird Watching Trek**

Old Cedar Avenue  
7:00 am-10:00 am

## **26 Family Nature Walk**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
10:30 am-11:30 am

## **27 Beat the Heat Summer Films**

Bloomington Education and Visitor Center  
3:00 pm-4:00 pm





# August

## **2 Family Nature Walk**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
10:30 am-11:30 am

## **3 Beat the Heat Summer Films**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
3:00 pm-4:00 pm

## **5 Bills and Beaks**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
9:00 am-10:30 am

## **9 Summer Birding**

Rapids Lake Education & Visitor Center  
8:30 am-11:30 am

## **9 Family Nature Walk**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
10:30 am-11:30 am

## **10 Super Moon Photo Hike**

Bass Ponds  
7:30 pm-9:30 pm

## **12 Hike with a Ranger**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
9:00 am- 12:30 am

## **16 Summer Birding**

Louisville Swamp  
8:30 am- 11:30 am

## **16 Family Nature Walk**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
10:30 am-11:30 am

## **17 Beat the Heat Summer Films**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
3:00 pm-4:00 pm

## **23 Bird Watching Trek**

Rapids Lake Education & Visitor Center  
7:00 am-10:00 am

## **23 Family Nature Walk**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
10:30 am-11:30 am

## **24 Bird Watching Trek**

Bloomington Ferry  
7:00 am-10:00 am

## **24 Beat the Heat Summer Films**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
3:00 pm-4:00 pm

## **30 Family Nature Walk**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
10:30 am-11:30 am

## **31 Beat the Heat Summer Films**

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center  
3:00 pm-4:00 pm





# Program

## Descriptions

### *Beat the Heat Summer Films*

Come inside on Sunday afternoons to enjoy a comfortable hour of films featuring some of our Refuge favorites. There is something for everyone with weekly themes, prize-winning documentaries, and great footage. Films may be checked out from the Resource Center for FREE! Recommended for all ages.

**June 1:** Attracting Birds to your Backyard

**June 15:** Eagles and Great Blue Heron Story

**June 22:** America's Wetlands and Prairie Potholes

**June 29:** Life Story of the Honeybee, Mayflies, and Gypsy Moths: A Dilemma

**July 6:** Turtle Planet

**July 13:** Preserving MN's Natural Treasures: The Story of SNA's

**July 20:** Endangered Species

**July 27:** Lord of the Ants

**August 3:** Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our Time

**August 10:** Strange Creatures of the Night

**August 17:** Duckumentary

**August 24:** Jane Goodall and John James Audubon

**August 31:** Animal Adaptations



False Sunflower, photo by Don Tredinnick



Indigo Bunting, photo by Mary Graves

### *Bills and Beaks*

This hands-on experience for parents, grandparents, and kids age 6-10 explores how birds' beaks and bills have special forms to help them select just the right foods from their outdoor dinner tables on the Refuge. Grown-up speak: We'll learn about adaptation and specialization, and how they help birds and other animals prosper in their habitats.

Rob Daves, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

### *Binoculars 101*

This 90-minute session will go over how to pick binoculars for outdoor uses such as birding and hiking. It will cover selecting binoculars to suit your personal needs, how to care for them, and how to use them to get the most of your outdoor experience. There will also be some hands-on experience during a short bird walk on the Refuge. This program is part of the Urban Bird Festival.

Rob Daves, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

### *Bird Watching for Beginners*

Bird watching is an easy, fun, family friendly activity. You will learn how to use binoculars and field guides, and we will take a short walk through the Refuge and identify some common "backyard" birds.

## *Bird Watching Trek*

Join us for a bird walk on one of the many Refuge units and learn about the birds that nest on the Refuge during the summer. With the variety of habitats at the different units, you will want to explore them all. We will observe a mix of waterfowl, raptors, warblers, flycatchers, and vireos. Birders of all skill levels are welcome on these walks. Bring along your binoculars and favorite field guide, and dress appropriately for the weather. Led by Craig Mandel, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

## *Birds on Film*

### *Duckumentary*

Ducks are born knowing how to survive. They must make it through a gauntlet of hungry predators, but in the end, ducks have a talent for survival, and their life stories are filled with personality and charm.

### *Birds on Film-Audubon Video Guide to 505 Birds of North America*

This narrated descriptive guide combines bird calls along with close-up footage and still photographs showing birds in their habitats. Naturalist Michael Godfrey worked with bird expert Kenn Kaufman to create this compilation of North American Birds.

## *Day Hiking on the Refuge*

The best way to see wildlife is by foot, and we should see plenty of animals on this 3-4 mile hike of the Long Meadow Lake Trail. Our hike will include "how-to" talks on organizing your day pack, plants and animal I.D., and other outdoor topics. If you have been interested in starting to hike but weren't sure how then this is for you!

Adults only, please. Registration required, call Kristin at 952-858-0715 or:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/dayhike>

Rob Daves, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist



Goslings, Photo by Chad Gustafson

## *Defined by Nature*

The Twin Cities is home to millions of people and hundreds of species of wildlife. Explore the natural history that created this unique urban network of wildlife and human habitat. Discover how you can enjoy our diverse and easily accessible natural areas.

Judy Geck, Park Ranger

## *Family Birding*

Birds are pretty, sure, but they also can be harbingers of what's going on in our natural world. With short walks and viewing from the observation deck, we will explore the stories that the Refuge's birds and other animals can tell. This will meet some of the requirements for the Boy Scouts of America Bird Study merit badge.

Best for Moms, dads, grandparents, and kids ages seven and older.

Rob Daves, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

## *Family Nature Walk*

Join a Refuge Naturalist for a leisurely walk through prairie, forest, and wetlands habitats and enjoy guided exploration of the Long Meadow Lake Unit of the Refuge. Discover the variety of wildlife that depend on refuge habitat for survival. These weekly hikes are one hour long and family friendly. Dress for the weather and bring water. We will provide all equipment.

## *Hike with a Ranger*

Enjoy refuge trails with a Trail Ranger while they make wildlife observations, collect nature phenology data and do light trail maintenance. Trail locations vary.

Please bring along water and a snack. Insect repellent and hiking shoes recommended. Trail descriptions are online:

[www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota\\_valley](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley).

*Please note: Participants must be at least 14 years of age to hike unaccompanied by an adult.*

Register:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RangerHike2014>

**June 23:** Chaska Lake Trail, 3 miles total

**July 18:** Mazomani Trail, 5 miles total

**August 12:** Long Meadow Lake Trail, 3.5 miles total

Mosquito, photo by  
Don Tredinnick



## *Humans for Lunch!*

If you're wondering why mosquito bites itch, horsefly bites hurt, and blackfly bites bleed, here's a look at the *specialized mouthparts of biting insects*. Discover how, when, and where insects use their eating utensils and learn how to avoid becoming the next main course.

Judy Geck, Park Ranger

## *Nesting Birds of the Refuge*

Over 100 species of birds have been observed nesting in the Refuge. We will search for some of those 100 nesting species and document the birds we do find. Bring along your binoculars, a field guide, and dress for the weather.

Craig Mandel, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

## *Paddle with Ranger Judy*

Join Ranger Judy for a paddle-with-a-view on the Minnesota River. On this guided excursion we'll explore 7 miles of the Refuge from the water. Provide your own canoe or kayak, equipment, and pfd. Basic paddling skills are required. Launch points vary, see pages 3, 4 and 12 for launch locations. Call Judy at 952-858-0731 with questions.

Judy Geck, Park Ranger

## *Right Bill for the Job*

Did you know that bird beaks are like tools we may have in our toolboxes? Learn how bird bills are like pliers, tweezers, tongs, and other tools through a hands-on activity. Then we will hike outside to see birds using their bills in action. We will supply the binoculars. This program is part of the Urban Bird Festival.

Mara Koenig, Park Ranger



Blowin' in the Wind, photo by Don Tredinnick

Raccoon Tracks, photo by Scott Sharkey



### *Spring Photo Hike*

Join us for a morning photo hike up by the main education and visitor center. Our first stop will be to observe the activity by the bird feeders. This is a busy area in the morning, with plenty of chances to capture some great bird shots. We will then move down the hill and observe the restoration area. There should be a nice mix of wild flowers and grasses beginning to emerge. We will continue down the hill to photograph other signs of late spring.

Don Tredinnick and Peter Berman,  
Volunteer Refuge Naturalists

### *Summer Birding*

Hike different portions of the Refuge and meet the birds that nest there. Waterfowl, raptors, warblers, and many other birds are in residence at this time of year, and we will search for as many of them as possible.

Bring your binoculars, water, bug spray, and dress for the weather.

George Skinner and Anne Hanley,  
Volunteer Refuge Naturalists

### *Super Moon Photo Hike*

It is the eve of the super moon, and moon rise is scheduled for 8:10 PM. With the overlap of the sunset and moon rise, there is sure to be some great color on the moon as it is rising. We will start with a hike around the Bass Ponds looking for whatever photo opportunities come our way before heading over to an area overlooking the river that should give us some great views of the moon as it rises.

Bring a tripod since we will be taking some longer exposures.

Don Tredinnick and Peter Berman,  
Volunteer Refuge Naturalists



Full Moon, photo by Don Tredinnick



# Now Showing in the Art Gallery

## Minnesota Wildlife

### 2014 Refuge Partner School Student Art Show

This June, check out the work of local student artists who have spent the last school year exploring the Refuge. This year's theme, *Minnesota Wildlife*, highlights the wildlife discoveries students from Vista View Elementary (Burnsville), Jackson Elementary (Shakopee) and Lake Nokomis Community School (Minneapolis) made during their field trips. An Artists' Reception is scheduled for Saturday, June 7 from 1:00-2:00 pm in the classroom adjacent to the art gallery.

**To find out more about the Refuge Partner School Program please visit [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Minnesota\\_Valley/visit/for\\_educators.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Minnesota_Valley/visit/for_educators.html)**

**“Minnesota Nature and Wildlife Photography”** by Chef Eric Gideon Baker opens July 1 and runs through August 31.



*Loon Dancing* by Chef Eric Baker

Eric's love of food and cooking began when he was young. While growing up in Connecticut, he would hear the lobster boats going out early in the morning and would oftentimes row across the river to the seafood market. He would see lobsters, oysters, clams and many varieties of fish, which sparked his interest in food and nature.

Eric's father got him interested in photography at an early age and he realized that it was a great way to spend more time with nature. He has photographed many different areas of the country, however Minnesota has particularly captured his heart and the wildlife and natural beauty in this area continues to inspire him. It is Eric's hope that through nature photography, wildlife and habitats will be preserved. This exhibit includes photographs of wildlife as well as some lakescapes.



## Certified Interpretive Guide Workshop

June 16-19, 2014

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge  
Bloomington, MN

### Workshop Highlights

- Foundations of interpretation
- Weave emotional and intellectual ideas into presentations to connect audiences to resources
- Learn how to craft tailor – made programs for diverse audiences and various learning styles
- Interactive group activities, demonstrations, and individual sessions with instructors



### Requirements

Anyone age 16 or over with a desire to increase their knowledge and skills related to interpretation may participate. Participants are required to take an open book exam, write a program outline, and conduct a 10-minute interpretive presentation. Membership in NAI is not required, but NAI members may pay a discounted fee to participate in the program (See cost below for details).



**Cost** is \$140 for full registration

### Registration

Fill out the registration form. Registration and payment must be received by **June 1, 2014**. **The registration form is located at:**

**[http://www.interpnet.com/nai/\\_certification/CIG\\_Workshops/CIG-2014-06-MN.aspx](http://www.interpnet.com/nai/_certification/CIG_Workshops/CIG-2014-06-MN.aspx)**

**Questions?** Contact Mara Koenig at 952-858-0710 or [Mara\\_Koenig@fws.gov](mailto:Mara_Koenig@fws.gov)

## *Trailhead Addresses*

**Bloomington Education and Visitor Center**

3815 American Blvd E, Bloomington  
Phone: 952-854-5900

**Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center**

15865 Rapids Lake Road, Carver  
Phone: 952-361-4500

**Old Cedar Avenue:**

9500 Old Cedar Ave S, Bloomington

**Chaska Unit, Carver Riverside Park Trailhead:**

725 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Chaska

**Cliff Fen Trailhead:**

120 East Cliff Road, Burnsville

**Carver Riverside Park:**

300 Main St. E, Carver

**Bass Ponds:**

2501 East 86<sup>th</sup> St, Bloomington

**Louisville Swamp:**

3801 145<sup>th</sup> St W, Shakopee

**Wilkie Unit:**

7701 County Road 101 E, Shakopee

**Lyndale Avenue Trailhead:**

11135 Lyndale Avenue S, Bloomington

**Thompson Ferry Landing:**

1.5 miles north of Jordan, MN on  
County Road 9

Minnesota Valley  
National Wildlife Refuge  
3815 American Blvd E  
Bloomington, MN 55425